Giuseppe Verdi - Four Sacred Pieces (1991)

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Ave Maria
Stabat Mater
Laudi Alla Vergine Maria
Te Deum

Vienna PO & State Opera Chorus Claudio Abbado – director

The two choruses with full orchestra, the Stabat Mater and Te Deum, Verdi's last compositions, are based on well-known poems. The first, celebrating Mary as she stands by the Cross, was set by many composers. For the Te Deum, written for double chorus, Verdi turned to a text often, though not here, used to celebrate victories and coronations. It quickly became common practice to perform the four pieces together, with a chorus singing the unaccompanied, but moving, Ave Maria and Laudi alla Vergine Maria, originally composed for solo voices.

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